

County of Los Angeles

Sheriff's Department Headquarters 4700 Ramona Boulevard Monterey Hark, California 91754–2169



July 14, 2005

The Honorable Board of Supervisors County of Los Angeles 383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

RESPONSE TO THE BOARD CONCERNING THE REGULATION OF MARIJUANA DISPENSED FOR MEDICAL PURPOSES

On May 31, 2005, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors unanimously passed an interim moratorium ordinance that temporarily banned medical marijuana dispensaries from opening within the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County. This moratorium was set for 45 days to allow the Department of Regional Planning and the Planning Commission time to initiate a zoning study and to make recommendations for appropriate land use regulations for such facilities.

On June 10, 2005, the County obtained a temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction against the "California Medical Caregiver's Association" from operating a medical marijuana dispensary at 15838 Haliburton Street, Hacienda Heights.

On June 14, 2005, the Board directed the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department to report ... "on enforcement of the interim moratorium ordinance in unincorporated areas, pending the County's regulations."

The temporary restraining order describes a medical marijuana dispensary as any facility or location where marijuana is made available, sold, transported, given, or otherwise provided to qualified individuals in accordance with Proposition 215, the Compassionate Use Act of 1996, and Senate Bill 420.

The only known dispensary located in the unincorporated area of Los Angeles County is the "California Medical Caregiver's Association," 15838 Haliburton Street, Hacienda Heights.

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department conducted an assessment of the status of the "California Medical Caregiver's Association" between June 6, 2005, and June 29, 2005. During that time, detectives assigned to the Narcotics Bureau utilized several investigative techniques to determine if the dispensary was in operation. The detectives were not able to make contact with any representative of the business. During attempts to contact the business by phone, a recorded message indicated they were not accepting registrants, but to leave a message. There was no activity at the location when the detectives were physically monitoring the location.

Additionally, patrol units assigned to the area conducted checks of the location and reported no activity. Until the conclusion of the temporary restraining order, narcotics detectives and patrol personnel will continue their effort to ensure enforcement of the temporary restraining order.

Code Enforcement

On June 28, 2005, Narcotics Bureau detectives spoke with County Code Enforcement Officer Lewis Cabriales. Officer Cabriales stated that he has also been monitoring the business to ensure it was in compliance with the temporary restraining order. Officer Cabriales said he has seen the owner of the business, Mr. David Nam, at the location on two occasions. On at least one of the contacts, Officer Cabriales spoke with Mr. Nam. During that conversation, Mr. Nam told Officer Cabriales that he was aware of the temporary restraining order and was not dispensing any marijuana at the time, but was continuing to register people.

All the above information indicates that the business is not dispensing marijuana at this time. Although the owner stated they were continuing to register "clients," the detectives were unable to confirm that process was taking place.

If you have any additional questions regarding the operational status of the "California Medical Caregiver's Association," please contact me or Captain William M. Ryan of our Detective Division, Narcotics Bureau, at (562) 946-7101.

Sincerely,

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SHERIFF